

1. How was Daniel's status as he entered Babylon similar to Joseph's status as he entered Egypt? See Gen. 37:28; 39:1; Dan. 1:1-7. Explain two reasons for the success of both Joseph and Daniel. See Gen. 39:2, 21; 41:34-39; Dan. 1:9, 17; 5:11-12.
2. Of the two reasons for the success of both Joseph and Daniel, which is more important? What is the relationship between them? Do these reasons for success in carrying out God's will apply only to leaders like Joseph and Daniel, or also to ordinary believers (like you and me today)? See Neh. 3:15; Mt. 25:14-15; Acts 9:36-39; Rom. 12:6-8.
3. Read Dan. 1:3-7. What was the ultimate goal of King Nebuchadnezzar for Daniel and his fellow captives from Israel? What was Ashpenaz ordered to teach them and feed them? Why did he change their names?
4. Read Dan. 1:8-20. What are some of the reasons that may have been behind Daniel's refusal to eat the food and wine from the king's table? What risk was Daniel taking in making this objection right at the beginning of his training to be a Babylon court official?
5. Read Dan. 3:1-30. In the familiar story of the fiery furnace, how did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego prove beyond doubt that they were not *of* the Babylon world? Since they had been appointed by King Nebuchadnezzar as high officials, what was probably their main temptation while living *in* the world of the Babylonians? How is that similar to temptations we face today as we try to obey Jesus' words not to be *of* the world?
6. Read Dan. 6:1-23. In the equally familiar story of Daniel in the lions' den, how did Daniel respond to King Darius' decree that no one should pray to anyone but him for 30 days? Why was the king so grief-stricken when he realized that he had been trapped into condemning Daniel? See esp. v. 3. What was the king's opinion of Daniel's faith *before* he knew that Daniel had survived? (v. 20)